

# Sports post

HAVING followed Wycombe Wanderers since 1955 when I was seven years old, I was amazed at their secretary's recent attack on both supporters or ex-supporters, and also the media.

Surely, it is the governing body of the Wanderers who are on trial for these reasons:

(1) Although we've had success in the early part of the Seventies and of course in the Mid-Fifties, it's unbelievable we have not won the Amateur Cup since the war or recently had much success in the FA Trophy.

(2) Over the past few years Wanderers have let top players go, like Ken Swain, Steve Perrin and Ian Pearson for 'peanuts' and never replaced them, although I'm certain they could have used young players like Dave Russell, once Flackwell Heath, now Slough Town, and Neil and Alan Cordice, whose homes are only about a mile from the ground and, of course, are now with Northampton Town and Norwich City respectively.

(3) Although we have no professional opposition for 18 miles and only Slough Town in non-league football, we have had no youth policy for many, many years. We even had to borrow Flackwell Heath's youth team for the Youth Cup.

What a terrible indictment on our policy. I have an uncle who up to last year managed a top local under-15's team.

When he applied to successive managers for facilities for training and coaching, or even looking at the lads' potential, the only reaction he got was that they were only interested in 'ready-made players.'

I wonder if the management or supporters realise that the average age of the team last season was around 28 years.

No wonder we were nicknamed 'the old Codgers' by some disillusioned supporters and that our average gate of 2,000 plus in 1975 dropped to around 1,000 last season.

The ball is firmly in the court of the officials of the club and that's where it will stay unless they act professionally by taking action on these points I mentioned.

They should also get a top local company to sponsor them and of course use the new lottery to buy top class players and appoint a youth coach. — R. Warner, 58 Park Lane, Hazlemere, High Wycombe.

## Ray Eaton comes back

RAY Eaton, the experienced defender who played for Wycombe Wanderers in the mid-seventies, is all set to return to Loakes Park for the coming season.

Manager Andy Williams and Eaton have agreed terms and provided that his present club Leatherhead agree to the deal, the player will once again turn out for the side that he played for in 1975/76.

The signing of Eaton would not have been necessary but for the temporary retirement of talented left back Bobby Davies, who said he was disillusioned. Eaton, one of the most experienced left backs in the league, certainly did not let Blues down when he was here before.

Two new players who have already signed on are the Reading youngsters Sean Price and Paul Miles, who were given a trial game against Altrincham in May.

Unfortunately, due to a road ac-

cident, young central defender Price was unable to play in that game, but Miles, a tall lanky forward, certainly looked most impressive on the night and should prove a useful acquisition.

Another forward who played in the game was the former Reading and Brentford striker John Murray who is about to sign on.

What Wycombe lacked most of all last season was a tall central

striker. Well the man who could well solve that problem is the 6ft 2ins Jim McCarthy from Hitchin. He is another to have agreed terms with Mr Williams.

One position not yet filled is that of centre-half, left open following the release of Alan Phillips, who incidentally has signed for Kingsmead Athenian League side Windsor and Eton. His expected replacement is last

year's Oxford University skipper Ian Barr, who has been down training with Wycombe.

Another player who has trained is the former Chalfont St Peter and Hitchin mid-field player Bobby Carroll. But he has a knee injury at the moment and there are no immediate plans to sign him on.

There is a strong connection with Mr Williams' previous club Hitchin and this view is confirmed

by the addition of Williams' successor at Top Field, Nicky Beech, to the Blues management team. At present Beech's role is unclear, but it is believed he has been engaged in a scouting capacity.

Regular training has already started and private friendly matches have already been arranged against Staines, managed by Tony's brother Rob, Tring and Letchworth.

The first time Wycombe fans will be able to see the newcomers in action will be in the opening pre-season friendly against top Southern League side Nuneaton at Loakes Park on Saturday, August 11. Three days later Blues entertain Barnet.

Explaining his new signings, Mr Williams said that they needed fresh faces to help renew interest in the club.

Blues' next public exhibition will be a cricket match against Wooburn Narkovians on Wednesday, starting at 6.30 pm.

## Burnham face Windsor

WYCOMBE Wanderers and Hungerford Town last season's finalists, have been exempted from the first round of this year's Berks and Bucks Senior Cup, the draw for which was made last week. But there are still some interesting pairings.

For instance, Burnham will entertain their Athenian League colleagues Windsor and Eton, while Hellenic leaguers Flackwell Heath at home to Chesham United. Another side with ground advantage are Holmer Green who meet Abingdon Town, but Marlow have to travel to Wallingford.

The ties are to be played on Saturday, September 29.

Full draw: Maidenhead Utd v Bracknell, Flackwell Heath v Chesham Utd, Didcot Town v Slough, Olney v Milton Keynes, Wallingford v Marlow, Wolverton v Rivets, Holmer Green v Abingdon Town, Burnham v Windsor and Eton, Milton Keynes Brough (Beisize) v Newbury, Aylesbury Utd v Wantage, Chalfont St Peter v Maidenhead Town, Buckingham Town v Wokingham Town, Thatcham v Hazells. Bye: Amersham.